

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1719 - HB 1378

April 1, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes requirements that courts order mental health evaluations and possible treatment of juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent or transferred to criminal court and found guilty of offenses involving cruelty to animals. If the offense involved cruelty to animals, the court has discretion to determine whether to order the evaluation and/or treatment. If the offense involved an aggravated cruelty to animals or unlawful killing of an animal, the court is required to order the mental evaluation and order treatment if the court determines that treatment is necessary. The bill specifies that the parents or guardian may be required to pay for the treatment unless they are indigent. The bill also provides that in addition to whatever damages a parent may be liable for when their child's unlawful and intentional acts result in the death of someone's pet, they will be liable for up to \$4,000 in noneconomic damages as is provided under current law.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Assumes that based upon 26 juvenile cases of acts of cruelty to animals occurring in 2001, courts are already requesting mental health evaluations and that decisions to place children in custody for treatment are based upon the seriousness of the act of cruelty. Provisions of the bill are not expected to increase commitments to the Department of Children's Services and are not estimated to have a significant fiscal impact upon the department or juvenile courts.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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